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THE DOG COLLECTION

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1 Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

THE DOG COLLECTION 1

Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

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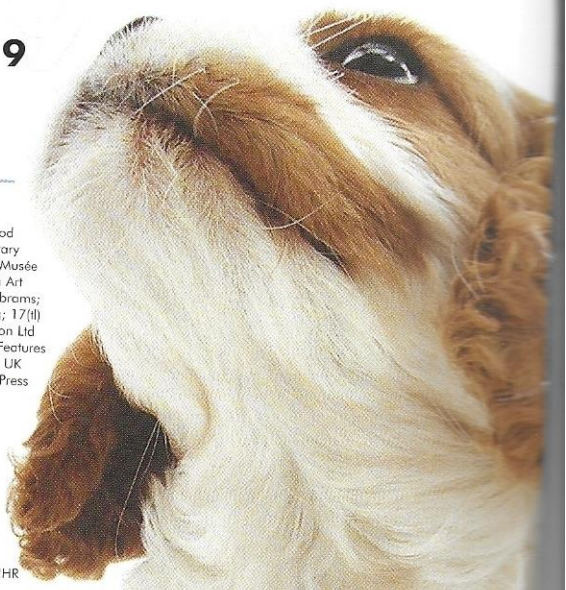

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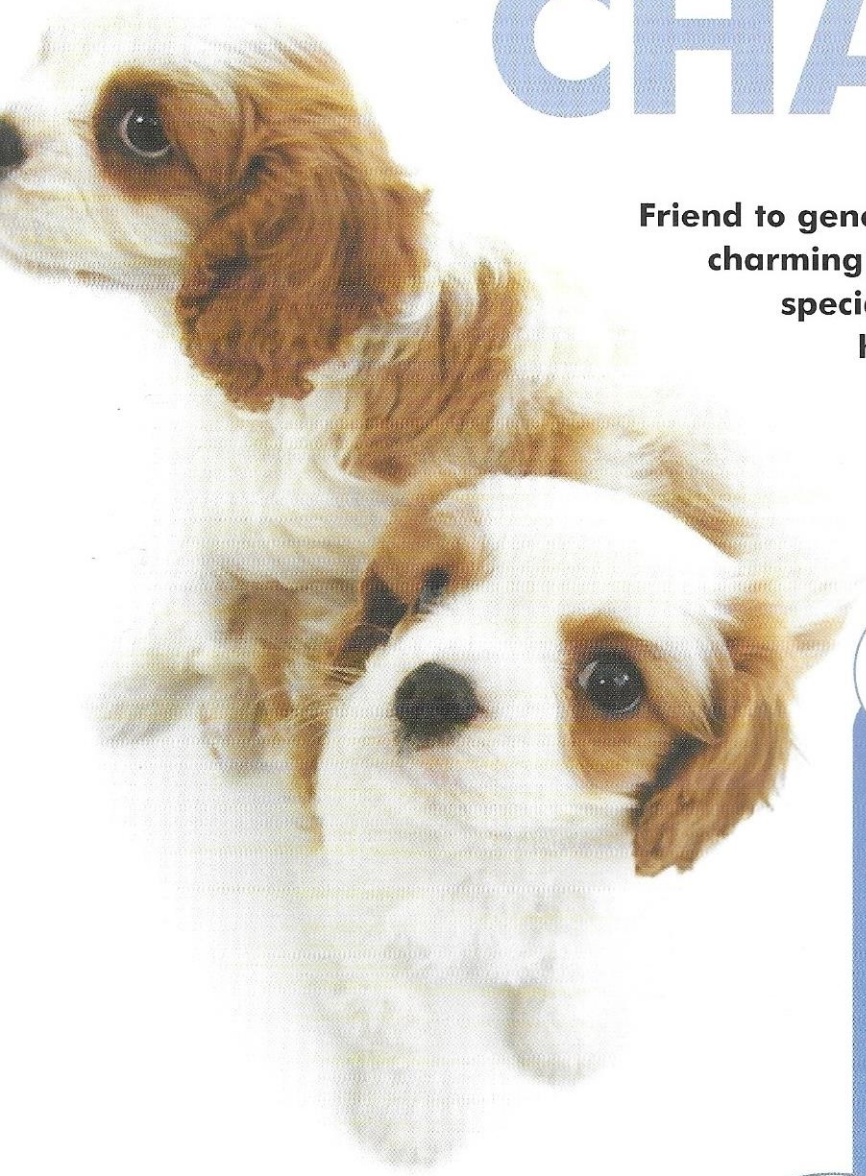
ALL THE KING'S DOGS: CAVALIER KING CHARLES



Friend to generations of English kings, this charming breed of toy dogs was given its special name by the Merry Monarch himself, King Charles II.

1 TOY DOG

Miniature dogs – collectively known as Toy Dogs – are primarily bred as companions. Many Toy Dog breeds have their origins in Asia, where they were friends and companions to emperors and monks. Others, like the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, are specially-bred miniature versions of older sporting breeds. Many Toy Dogs weigh less than 3kg (7lb) and will easily fit in your handbag!

The Cavalier King Charles Spaniel is the first Toy Dog in your collection and is every inch as adorable as the real thing.

His collar is a soft shade of blue trimmed with purple velvet ribbon, the colours and textures complementing the rich silkiness of the dog's coat. Watch out for the metal heart tags; all the Toy Dogs in The Dog Collection will have one!

SHOW SPECIAL

The Cavalier King Charles, which displays the best characteristics of both a toy dog and a sporting spaniel, makes a truly delightful companion. When he's out and about he's lively and sporty, but at home on a rainy day he loves to curl up on your lap or to act as a silky footwarmer. The Cavalier is friendly to all and sundry: so, if you want a guard dog, he's probably not for you!

HEAD
Nearly flat between the ears, with a well defined nose

Ideal height to shoulders
33cm (dogs)
31cm (bitches)

EYES
Large round eyes give the dog his characteristic endearing look

TAIL
Well feathered and usually not docked

NECK
Strong, slightly arched neck

EARS
Long, drooping ears with plenty of feathering

BODY
Small, well-balanced body; dog moves with an elegant gait

PAWS
Compact feathered feet

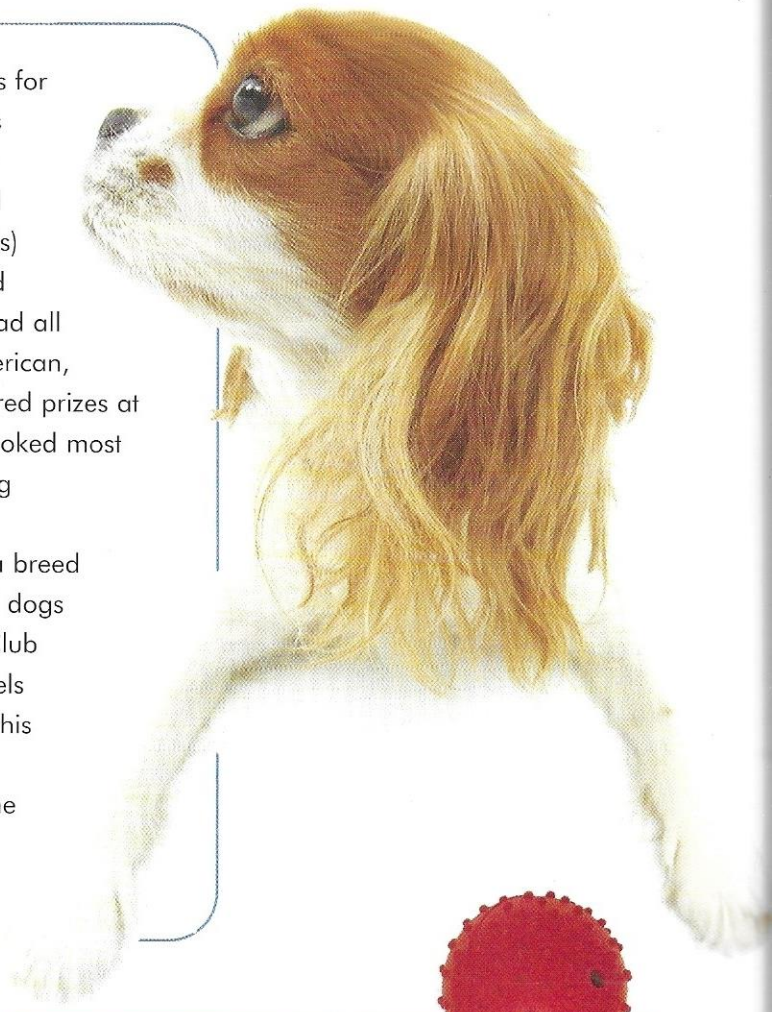
COLOURS

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels come in four attractive colours. These are black and tan, tricolour (black and white with tan highlights on the eyebrows, ears and feet), ruby (a solid clear red) and blenheim, (a rich chestnut and white).

THE STORY OF THE CAVALIER KING CHARLES

Tiny spaniels have been kept as pets for centuries, but the Cavalier King Charles was specially bred to his present style. For many years toy spaniels with flat faces and domed skulls (known today as King Charles Spaniels) had been popular, and the older long-nosed type seen in paintings of the English court had all but disappeared. Then in the 1920s an American, Roswell Eldridge, came to England and offered prizes at Cruft's for blenheim-coloured dogs which looked most like the spaniels seen in the paintings of King Charles II's reign.

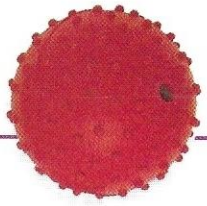
The results were slow but sure, and a breed standard for these longer nosed, flat skulled dogs was established in 1928. Separate Kennel Club registration for Cavalier King Charles Spaniels came in 1945. Since then the popularity of this happy breed has grown steadily, and it has been in the top ten Kennel Club breeds in the United Kingdom, Sweden and the Netherlands for several years.



CARING FOR YOUR CAVALIER KING CHARLES

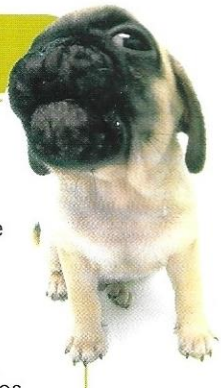
Cavaliers have long, silky coats that need regular brushing and combing to keep them glossy and tangle free. A bristle brush, a metal comb and a rake are the basics, and five minutes each day should keep the coat shining and free of tangles and dust. An occasional bath will be a good plan – the Cavalier loves to roll in unsavoury things as much as any other breed!

Although there is no need to clip a Cavalier's coat, those long ears need special care and should be cleaned and trimmed regularly. Fur between the paws should also be kept neat and tidy – not least to prevent the dog bringing most of the garden back inside with him!

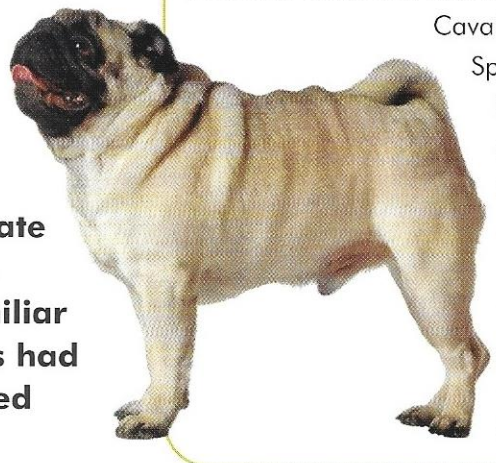


Just like fashions in clothes, fashions in dogs change. While Charles II's and his brother James II's love of Spaniels kept the little dogs popular, they fell from favour when William and Mary came over from Holland to rule. Their favourite lap dogs were Pugs. Although Spaniels remained popular as sporting dogs, by the late nineteenth century the type of toy spaniel familiar to us from old portraits had vanished, to be replaced by a shorter nosed, dome headed version that had a curious look of the Pug about it.

THE PUG

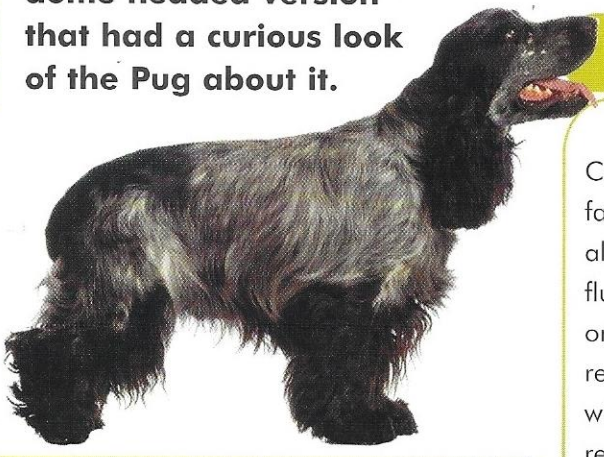


This breed is another favourite with royalty – two famous pairs of pug enthusiasts, 200 years apart, were William and Mary and the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. It seems highly probable that some characteristics of today's Cavalier King Charles Spaniels and King Charles Spaniels derive from crossings, both accidental and deliberate, between Spaniels and Pugs.



Both types of toy spaniel have lustrous, prominent eyes and the square stocky shape that characterises the Pug.

THE COCKER SPANIEL

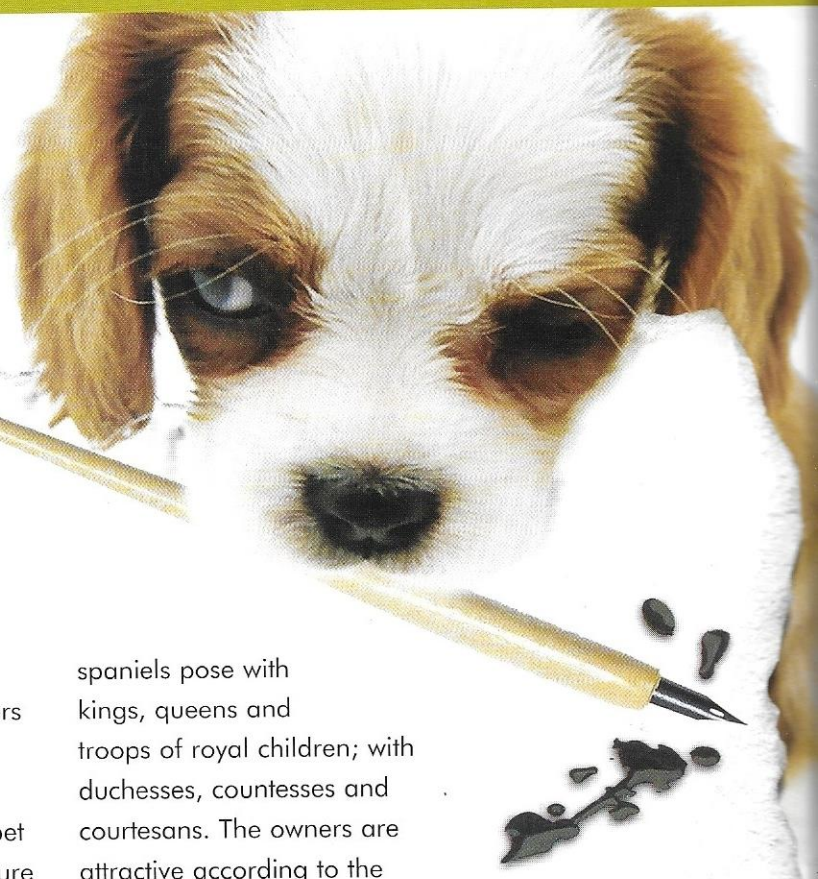


Larger and more obviously sporty than Cavaliers and King Charles Spaniels, the Cocker is a favourite breed with pet owners and sportsmen alike. Quick and agile, they are used to both flush out game – their name derives from their original use to flush out woodcock – and retrieve it. Cockers were interbred with King Charles Spaniels to revive the Cavalier strain. The breed comes in various colours.

THE KING CHARLES

Known in America as the English Toy Spaniel (ET for short), the King Charles Spaniel is smaller and slighter than the Cavalier. He has a high, domed forehead, a squashed-in nose, and large, prominent eyes. He has a square, cobby shape and lots of long silky hair. Like the Cavalier, the Charlie has a merry temperament and makes a perfect companion both on leisurely strolls and for long cosy afternoons on the sofa. He comes in the same range of colours as his bigger cousin.

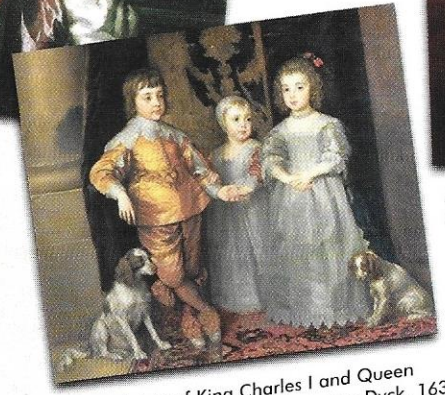
CAVALIERS IN ART



Down the centuries paintings prove just how popular toy spaniels have always been.

Known as "Comforters" and "Spaniells gentle", the toy spaniels from whom today's Cavaliers descend have been around since Tudor times. And because of their long association with the upper classes, there are portraits of society folk with their pet spaniels in art galleries all over the world. They feature in works of 16th, 17th and 18th century painters such as Van Dyck, Titian, Stubbs and Gainsborough. Toy spaniels pose with kings, queens and troops of royal children; with duchesses, countesses and courtesans. The owners are attractive according to the fashion of the day; but their pet dogs are, like their modern counterparts, irresistible!

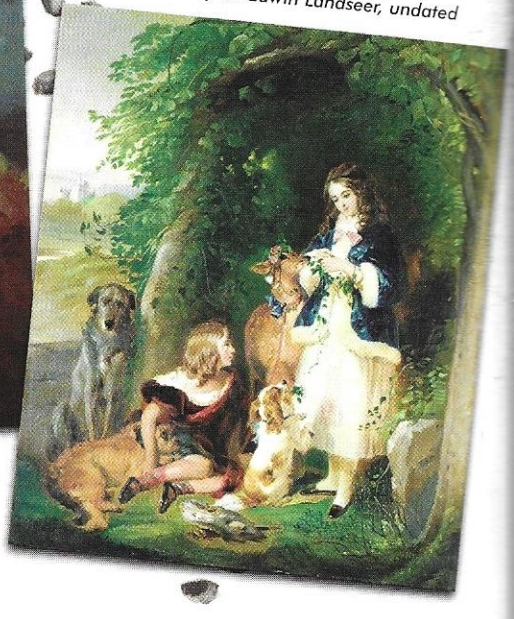
Portrait of a Lady by Nicholas Maes, 1677



The Children of King Charles I and Queen Henrietta Maria by Sir Anthony van Dyck, 1637

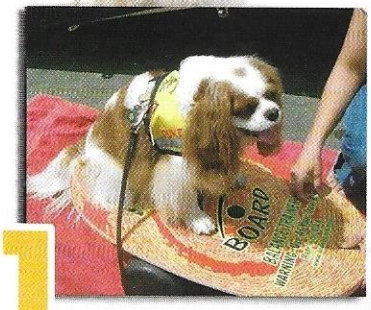
La Belle Strasbourgeoise by Nicolas de Largilliere, 1703

The Marquess of Stafford and the Lady Evelyn Gower by Sir Edwin Landseer, undated



HERE COMES THE CAVAL(IE)RY

Six-year-old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Duke is a small dog with a huge reputation in California for his Animal Assisted Therapy and Crisis Response work.



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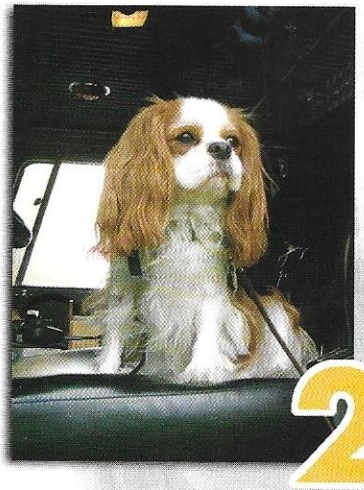

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Animal therapy is based on the idea that animals create a sense of relaxation, comfort and safety for stressed or traumatised people. For a person under stress, stroking a warm, responsive creature – and perhaps offering it a treat – can provide a vital breakthrough on the way to recovery.

Duke, aka Sheeba Anakin, is fully trained in Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) and Crisis Response, and has put in hundreds of hours as a pet partner, working with his handler, Dr Lois Abrams, a psycho-therapist, both at her practice in Los Alamitos, and on emergency call at a number of crisis centres.

In 2003 Duke and Lois were joined in their work by newly-qualified young blenheim Cavalier Cloudbase Merlin, known to his friends as Romeo. Together the team have been making a big impression in the Sunshine State of California.

TRAINING FOR THERAPY

All therapy dogs must pass the Canine Good Citizen Test with 100% scores and the Temperament Test with 80%. Duke and Romeo both started their training as quite young puppies, even though adult rescue dogs can also often make brilliant therapy trainees.

Lois started off by taking the young Duke everywhere with her – to offices, shops and shopping malls. Socialising him in this way meant that Duke quickly became used to the many sights, sounds and smells of everyday life – people young and old, the noise of traffic, wheelchairs and crutches, the sudden, startling appearance of roller skaters and kids

3

4

1. Duke tries out a skate board
2. Romeo ready for action
3. Duke and Dr Lois Abrams
4. Romeo checks out his 2nd birthday cake while Duke looks on politely

on skateboards. Soon he was taking it all in his stride.

Duke learned to greet people politely and to let them pet him and handle him, even to look at his teeth. He also learned to ignore food – even his favourite doggy treats – and only eat at his owner's command.

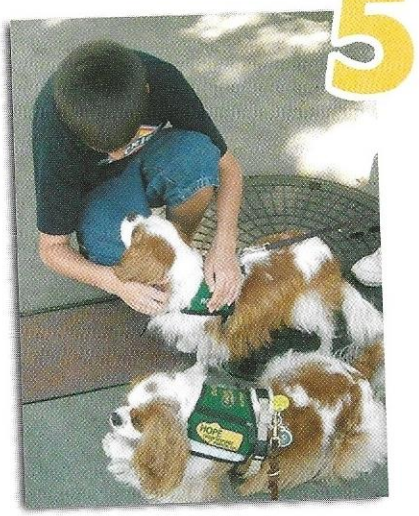
Armed with all this, at one year old Duke then started the Good Citizen training, which involves walking to heel, sitting and staying. He learned to stay in a sit or a down position until called: this is one of the most important skills for a therapy dog, who must stay quietly with a stranger and allow them to caress him, however rough or awkward those caresses may be.

The Temperament Test that follows is fairly easy for a well-socialised dog, as it mostly involves seeing how the dog reacts to strange noises and alien situations. But Duke was so good that he went on for further training, and he and Lois are now one of only six K-9 partnerships in the U.S.A. qualified to work in crisis response at national level. The 40-hour special training session saw Duke and Lois lying on an aircraft floor during a flight, riding in an ambulance on an emergency call and visiting fire stations while firemen set fires, performed hose drills and carried out mock rescues.

DUKE AND DUSTIN

Dustin, aged 10, had been traumatised by his experiences in the terrible wildfires that raged through California in November 2003. His home had been burnt, his only parent had been hospitalised and his cat was missing. The poor boy had lain for a week still and silent at the makeshift crisis centre. However, as soon as Duke spotted Dustin, he trotted over to him, jumped on the bed and cuddled up. As Dustin started timidly to caress his new friend, he took the first step on the road to recovery.

Duke won the Bravo for Bravery Award for his work with the wildfire victims. Romeo, although a relatively inexperienced therapy dog, also worked hard at the same crisis scene. It's hard to overestimate the good such dogs do. Lois says: "The dogs bring comfort where humans cannot go. I call them natural healers and 'seeing heart' dogs."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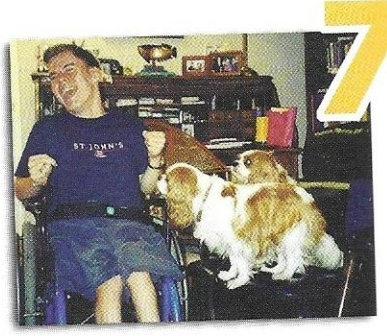
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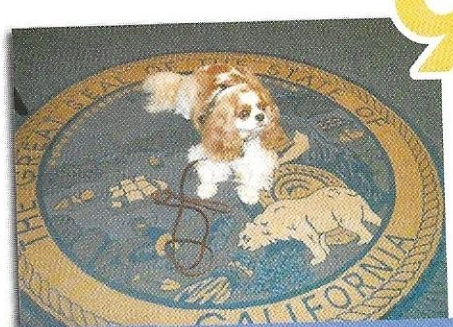
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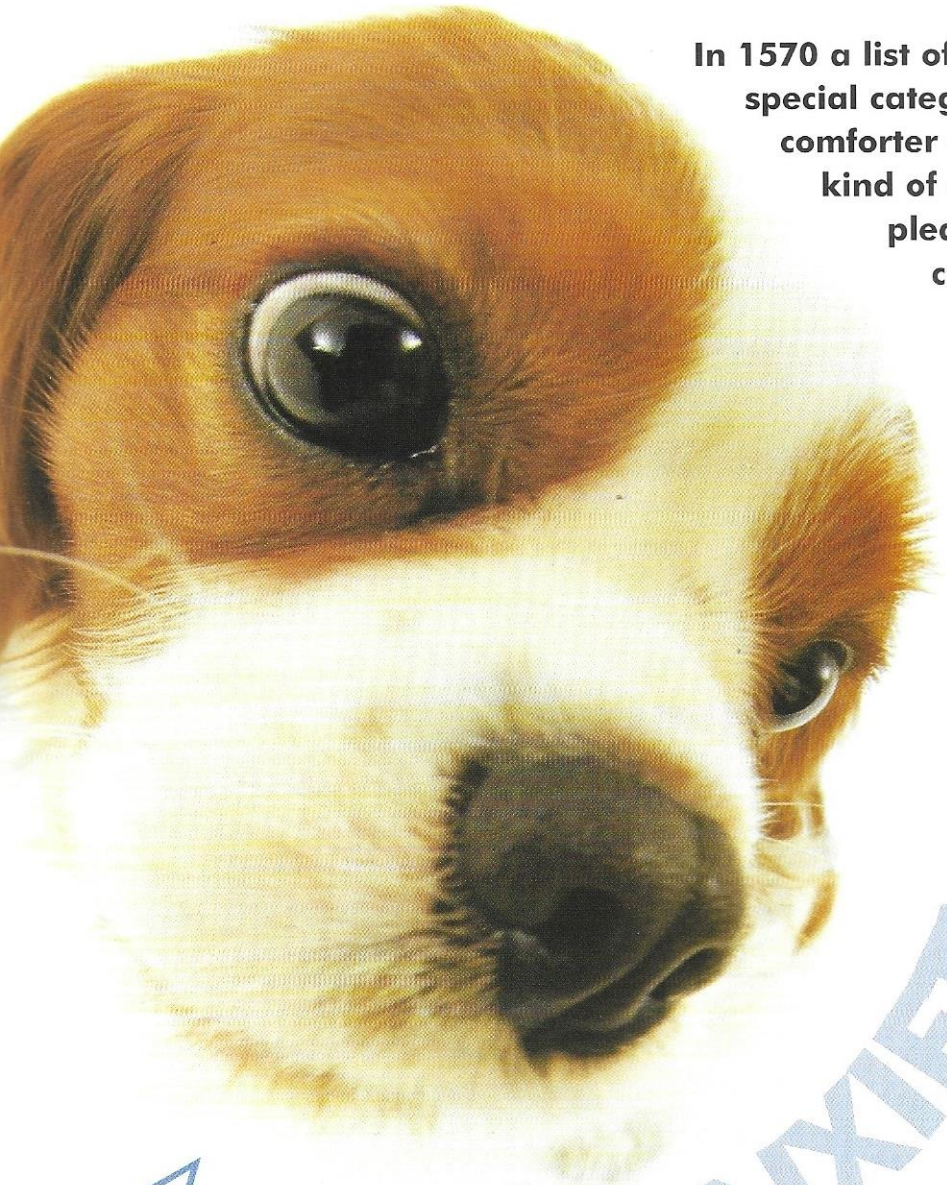
5. Duke and Romeo at work
6. Duke with Dustin
7. Duke and Romeo help Robert overcome his fear of dogs
8. Duke and teenager Stephanie
9. Duke at California's State Capitol for a presentation

Warm thanks to Dr Lois Abrams for supplying the information and photographs for this feature. If you want to find out more about animal therapy check www. guidance-facilitators.com and www.petsastherapy.org

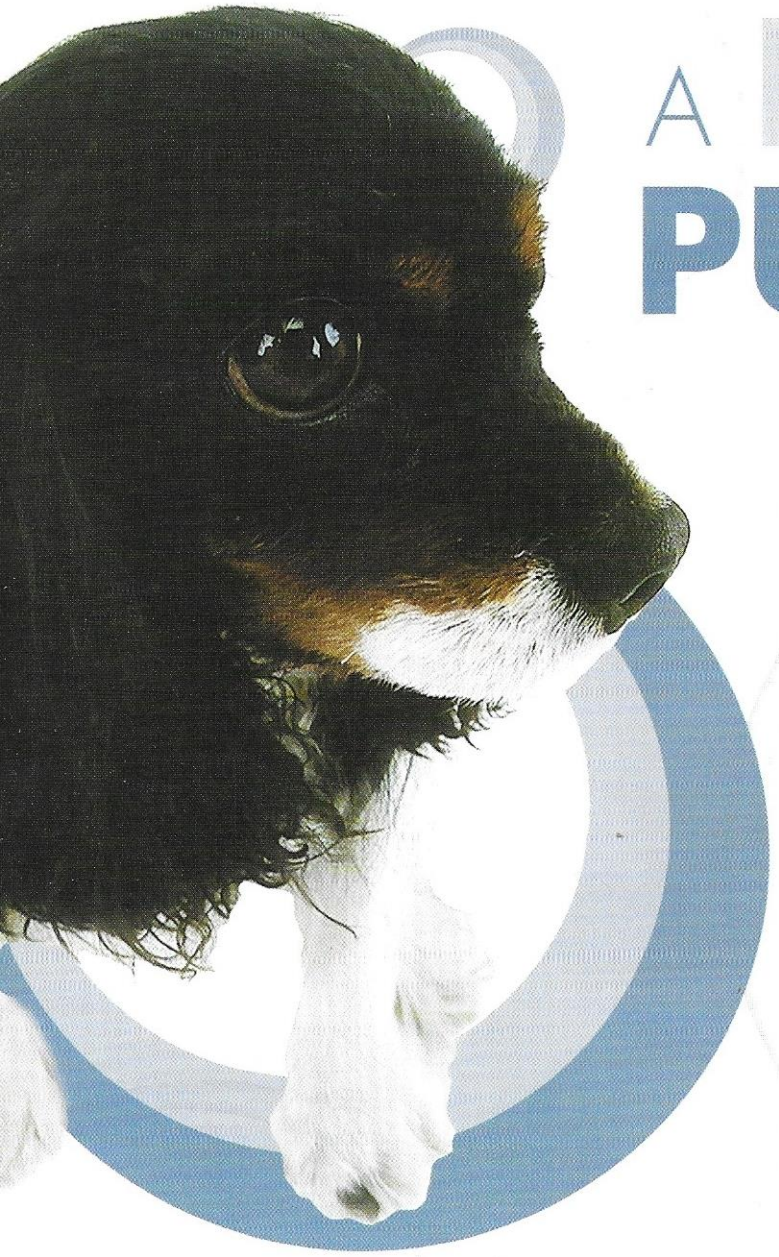
SPANIELS GENTLE

In 1570 a list of dog breeds included one special category, the "Spaniell gentle or comforter – a delicate, neat and pretty kind of dog ... chamber companions, pleasant play fellows." Today's cavalier to a T!



A SPOT of ANXIETY

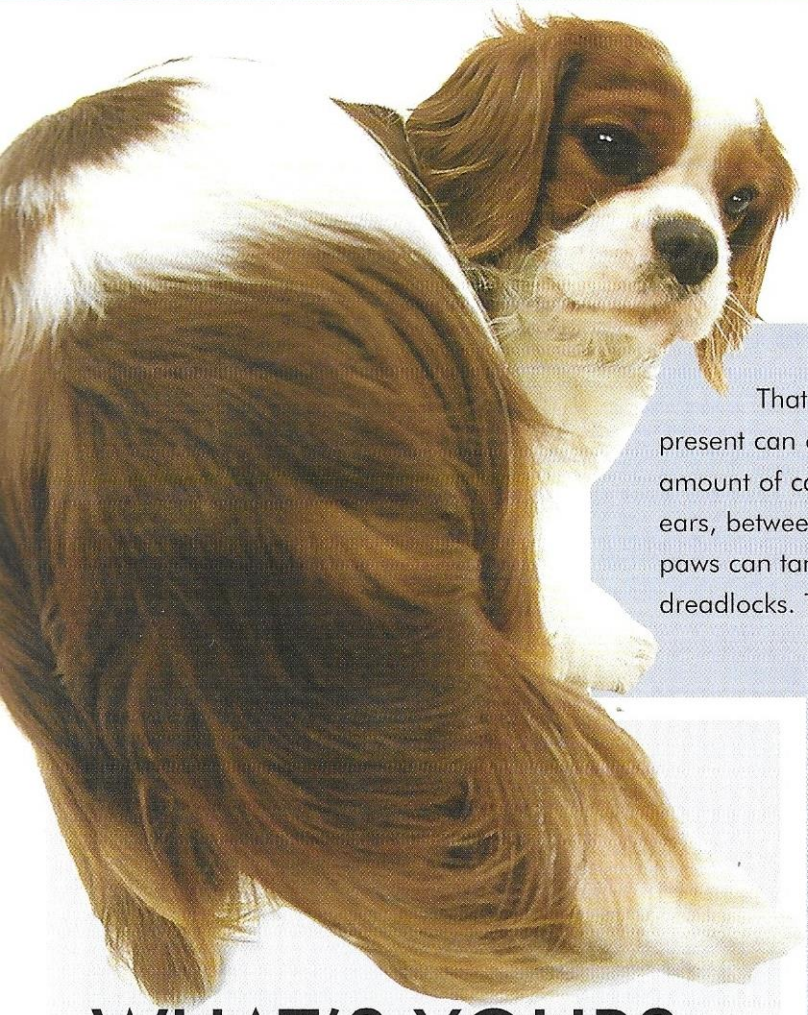
In 1704 the Duke of Marlborough – a famous breeder of small but sporty toy spaniels – was leading the English and Dutch forces at the Battle of Blenheim in Bavaria. At home in England his wife Sarah waited nervously for news of her husband. On the duchess's lap sat her little pregnant red and white spaniel, doing what spaniels do best, comforting her owner. Nonetheless, the anxious duchess continually stroked the top of the dog's head with her thumb. Finally, good news came – the Duke had won a famous victory! However, when the bitch produced her litter of five puppies, each carried a red mark, just like a thumb print, on the top of its head. This mark became known as the Blenheim spot, and is now much prized among breeders



A PET WITH A PURPOSE

In its heyday in the sixteenth century, this breed was known as a "comforte dog" and doctors even wrote prescriptions with the toy spaniel as the remedy. They used to warm ladies' laps during cold carriage rides and while waiting about in chilly castles. Another job the spaniels had was to attract fleas off their mistresses so – unknowingly – these little dogs may well have saved their owners from the flea bites that spread the bubonic plague.

All that sitting about on laps makes Cavaliers prone to put on the pounds. So it's important to keep them slim and well-exercised. Some top Cavalier fanciers recommend a natural diet of good quality meat, a few vegetables and biscuits ... and one day of fasting every week. Your dog will rapidly get used to this regime, and you will find it is good for his general health and levels of activity



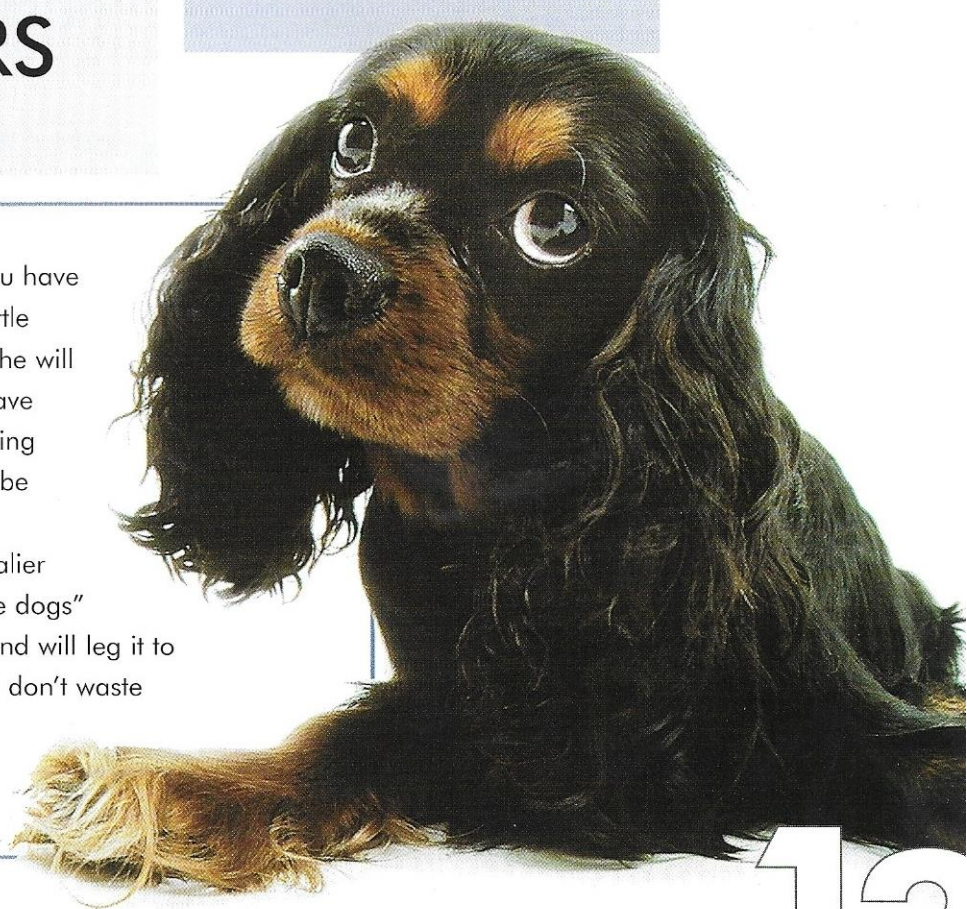
DREADFUL DREADLOCKS

That smooth silky look that Cavaliers present can only be maintained with a certain amount of care from you. The long hair on their ears, between their legs and on their feathery paws can tangle easily into hard, uncomfortable dreadlocks. This hair needs regular combing to keep it tangle free. If difficult knots do form, don't try to cut them out with scissors, especially around the foot pads, but apply some of your own hair conditioner, leave it on for a few minutes, and then gently ease out the tangles by hand

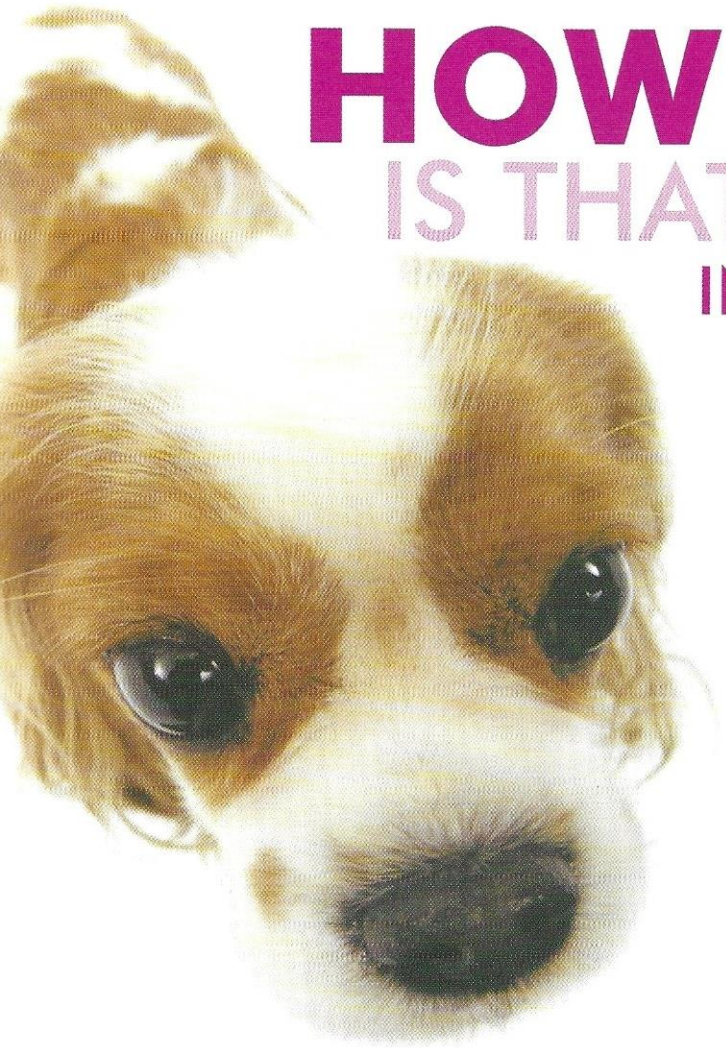
WHAT'S YOURS IS MINE

Cavaliers are immensely manipulative. So those dreams you have about how well-disciplined your little puppy will be – for example, that he will simply love the cosy basket you have chosen for him and won't be sharing your sofa or your bed – may well be just dreams.

Advice from seasoned Cavalier owners runs as follows: "Comforte dogs" like a bit of comfort themselves, and will leg it to the cosiest place they can find. So don't waste your cash on a dog-bed; your Cavalier will make a point of sharing yours



HOW MUCH IS THAT DOGGIE IN THE WINDOW?



Once the dog of kings, the Cavalier is now known as the "shopkeepers' dog", as so many shop owners find the little dog an ideal work companion. He'll be content to curl up on a cushion in the shop window and, when awake, will greet all customers with friendly enthusiam

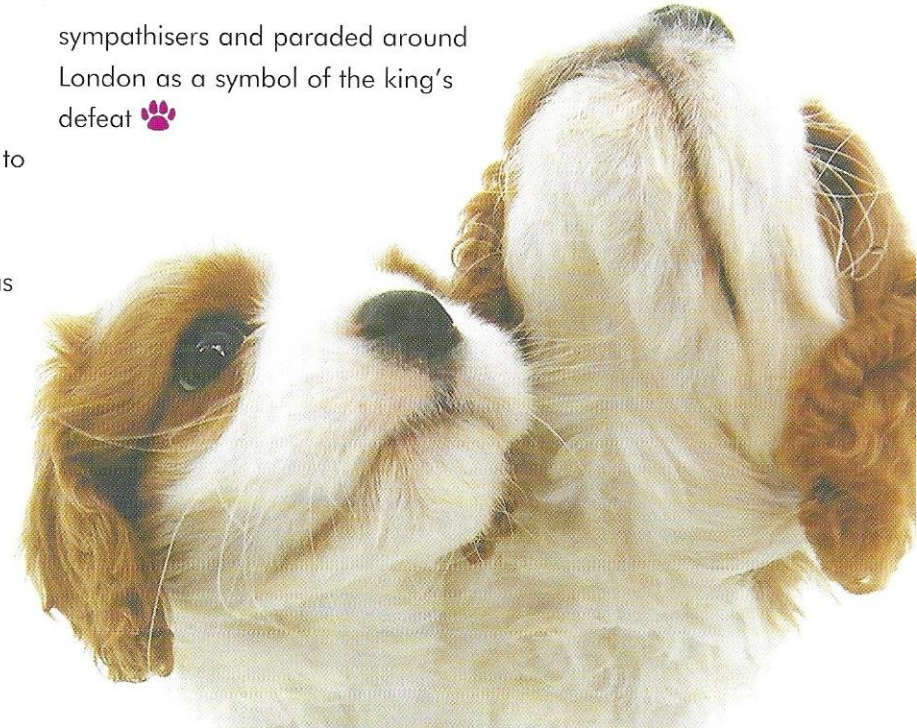
Health Warning

Cavaliers are prone to both heart and eye problems, so it is very very important to make sure that your puppy comes from good stock and that both parents have been fully health checked before breeding

FAITHFUL TO THE END

Mary, Queen of Scots shared her long imprisonment with a little black and white spaniel. After she was beheaded, on 8 February 1587, the dog was found cowering under her skirts, and had to be dragged away from its mistress's corpse. It died two days later, probably of grief.

Mary's grandson, Charles I of England, was also very fond of spaniels, and his particular pet, known as Rogue, was with him during his imprisonment by the Roundheads at Carisbrooke Castle, and was reputedly also with him at his death. After the king's execution on 30 January 1649, Rogue was taken by Roundhead sympathisers and paraded around London as a symbol of the king's defeat



CAV OWNERS MARCH ON PARLIAMENT!

King Charles II was so fond of his dogs he could not be parted from them. To the horror of his advisers, he often sat in meetings of the Privy Council with a Spaniel or two on his lap, and was never seen out walking in the park without a gaggle of them at his heels. Apparently one his favourite bitches gave birth to her litter of pups in the King's own bed!

The spaniel-loving monarch even made a decree that King Charles Spaniels must be allowed in any public place, including the Houses of Parliament. This decree is believed to be still in the law books today

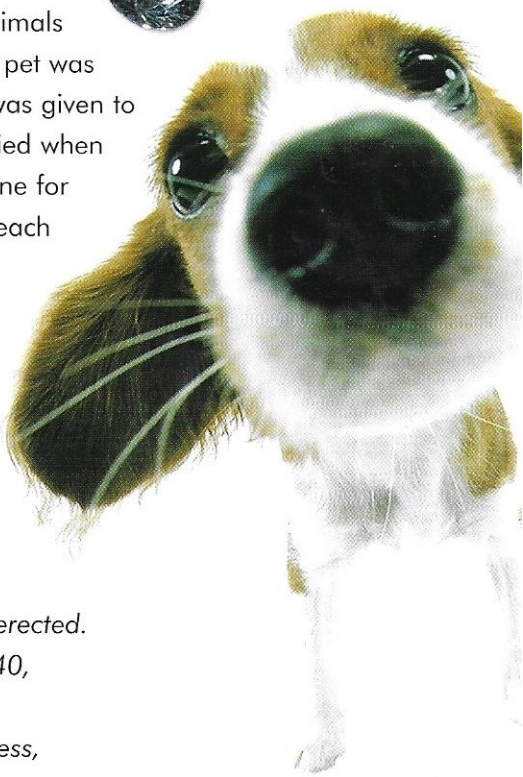
DID YOU NOSE?

Although many Cavalier puppies are born either with a pink nose, or with a great deal of pink pigmentation around it, in adult dogs the nose should be coal black. Blenheims often retain some pinkness near the nose tip, but even this should fade over the years

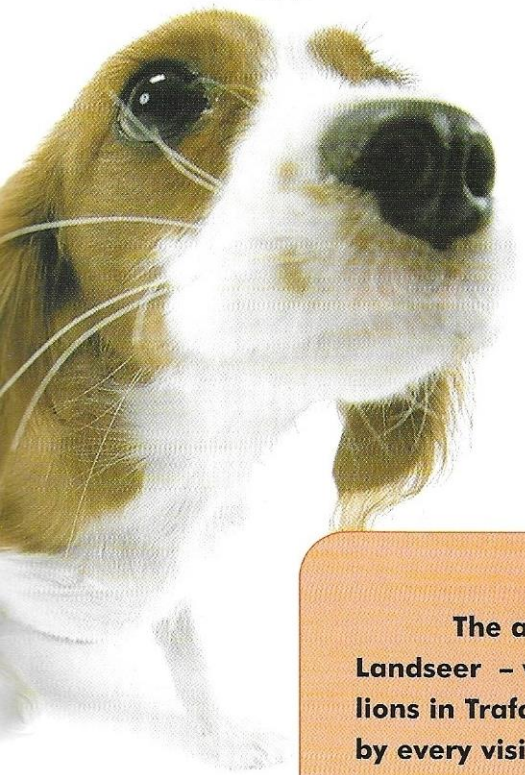
A QUEEN'S CAVALIER

Queen Victoria famously loved animals of all kinds, but perhaps her favourite pet was her little tricolour spaniel Dash, who was given to her when she was just 12, and who died when she was 21 and had been on the throne for three years. The pair were devoted to each other, and when Dash died, the sad Queen wrote an epitaph for him.

Dash's epitaph is inscribed on his tombstone in grounds of Adelaide House.



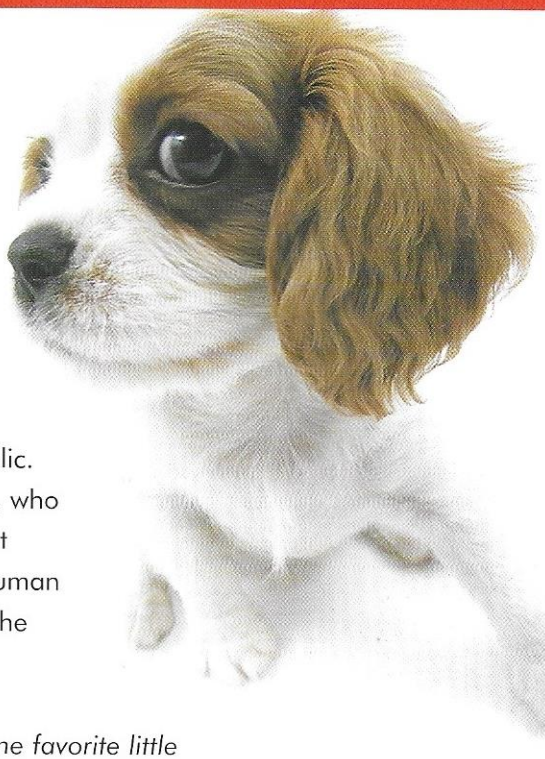
Here lies DASH,
The Favourite Spaniel of
Her Majesty, Queen Victoria,
By whose command this Memorial was erected.
He died on the 20th December 1840,
in his 9th year.
His attachment was without selfishness,
His playfulness without malice,
His fidelity without deceit.
READER, if you would live beloved and die regretted, profit by the example of DASH.



Dash behind the lions

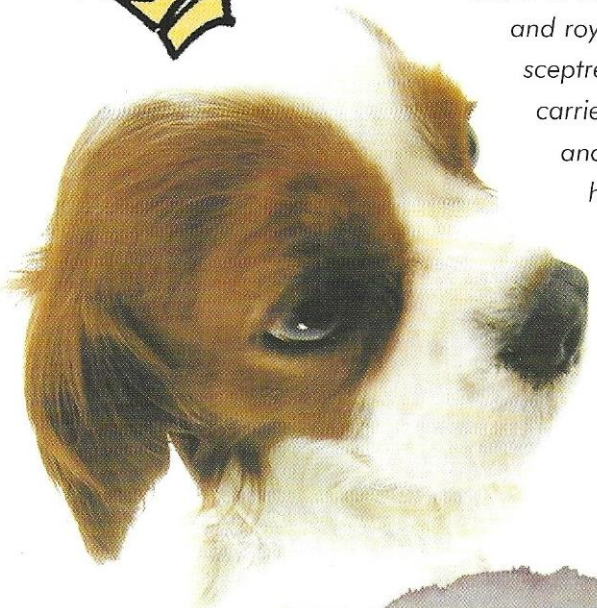
The artist Sir Edwin Landseer – whose sculpted stone lions in Trafalgar Square are seen by every visitor to London – became famous because of the Queen's spaniel, Dash. The Duchess of Kent, Victoria's mother, commissioned a portrait of Dash for the young princess, and Victoria liked it so much that Landseer became a regular favourite at court, winning commissions from the great and good – including the one for those famous lions.

ROYAL DASH FOR BATH



The young Queen Victoria was famous for her regal composure in public. However, American artist Charles Leslie, who painted her coronation and had constant access to the Queen, gives her a more human face in this story of her return home after the coronation ceremony. He wrote:

"She is very fond of dogs, and has one favorite little spaniel, who is always on the lookout for her return when she is from home. She had, of course, been separated from him on that day longer than usual, and when the state-coach drove up to the Palace steps she heard him barking joyously in the hall, and exclaimed, 'There's Dash,' and was in a hurry to doff her crown and royal robe, and lay down the sceptre and the orb, which she carried in her hands, and go and give Dash his bath."



Star Owners of CAVALIER King Charles

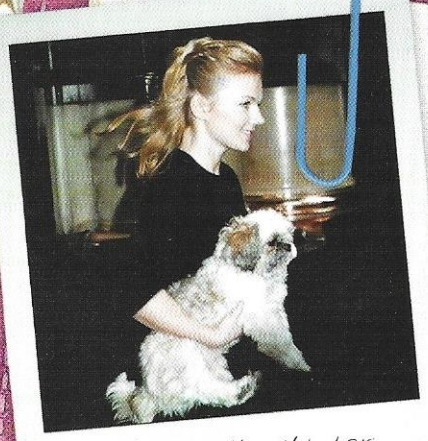
* Ronald Reagan
* Natalie Imbrulia
* Candice Bergen
* Frank Sinatra
* Liv Tyler
* Natalie Wood
* Robert Wagner

Mantelpiece Dogs

Queen Victoria's love of spaniels attracted the interest of the Staffordshire potters, and between the 1840s and the 1890s they churned out thousands of the little dogs in various poses. Today the figurines, made mostly to adorn working class homes, are very popular with collectors of Victoriana.

Celebrity Dog Fever

It's hard to believe, but fashions in dogs change just like fashions in clothes.



Geri Halliwell with her Shih Tzu, Harry

Look how the fortunes of toy spaniels have changed over the years – from aristocratic favourite to near extinction and back, with the current nickname of "the shopkeepers' dog".

Heinz 57s at your service

Humans are fickle with their doggy favourites. Some acquire a dog because it looks cute in a TV advert – think about the loo-roll puppy, and then count the enormous number of labradors in your local park! Or a breed may become fashionable because of trendy owners – recent rises in popularity of Shih Tzus and Yorkies can partly be put down to how cute these 'handbag' dogs look snuggled up with Geri Halliwell and Britney Spears respectively. Feisty Jack Russell terriers, once mainly popular with farmers for routing foxes out of holes, are now high on the list of most wanted pet breeds, following the fame of celebrity chef Rick Stein's Chalky and the US TV series *Frasier*'s Eddie.

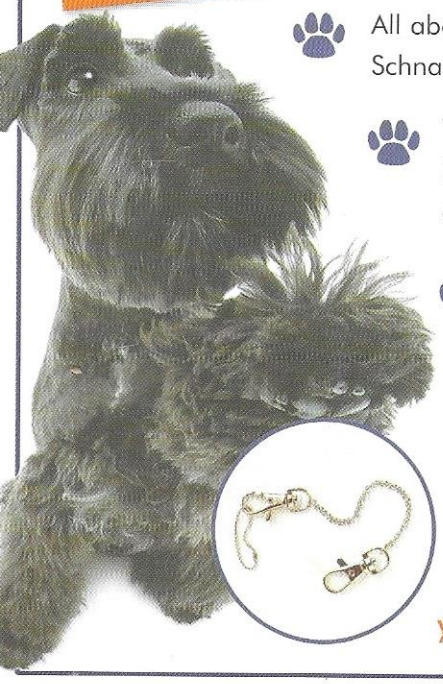
But, according to the PDSA (Peoples' Dispensary for Sick Animals) and Battersea Dogs' Home, the most popular breed at present is the Staffordshire Bull Terrier. Footballer Michael Owen and The Street's Mike Skinner are both proud owners of these charmingly ugly dogs. Incidentally the breed's popularity means that it has the dubious distinction of being a prime target for dog-snatchers, so if you don't want your heart broken, don't leave leave your Staffie unattended.

35% of our dogs are mongrels

Whatever the current fashion in pedigree dogs, the dogs that are always with us, and just as loyal as the smartest pooches, are the crossbreeds. Call them mongrels, Heinz 57s or Battersea collies, they're here to stay!

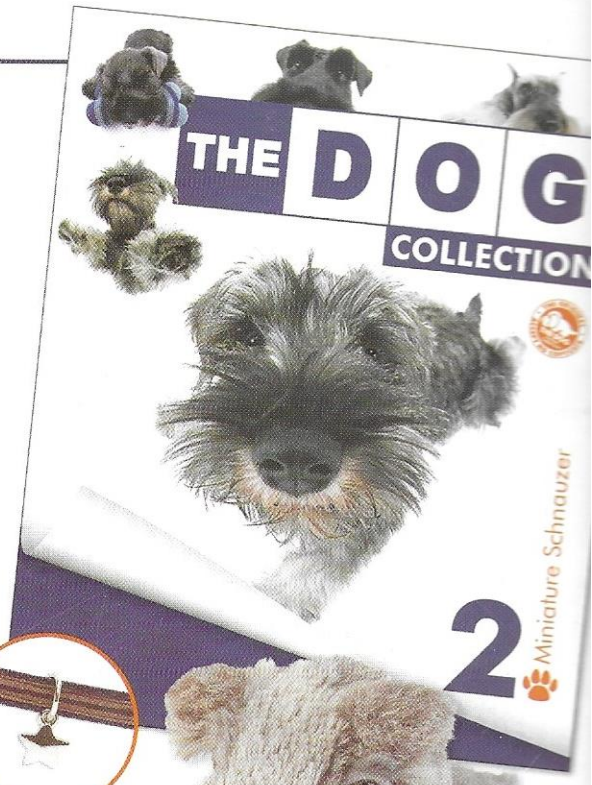
Sam Taylor Wood and Staffie Sid

Coming in issue 2



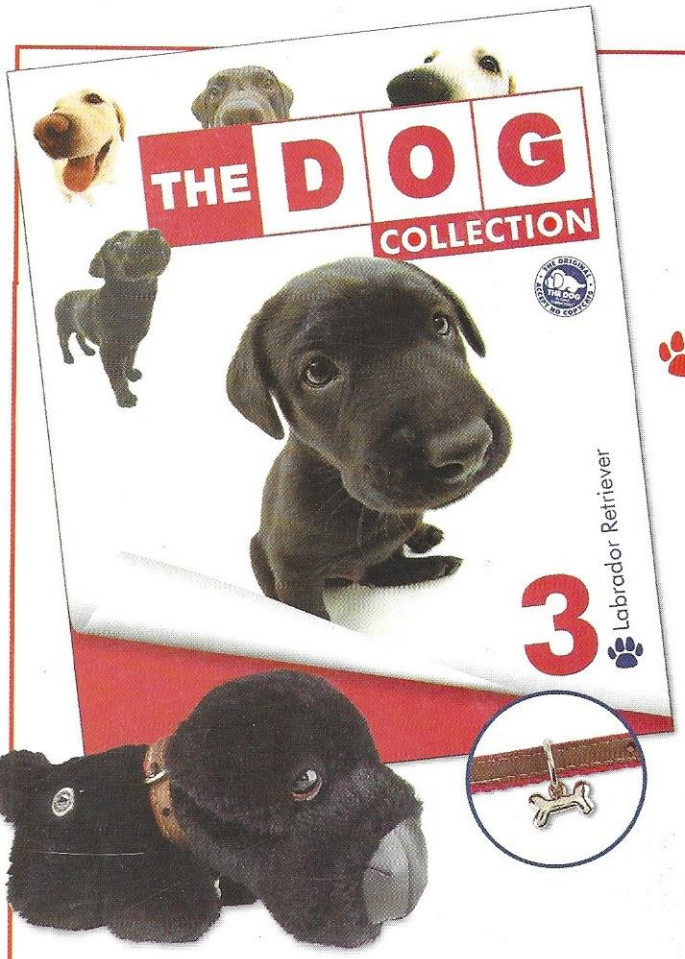
- All about the feisty and charming Miniature Schnauzer, an ideal town companion dog
- The Gallery shows the dog at his bouncy best – and is packed with hints on looking after him
- The story of a Mini Schnauzer that aimed at the US Presidency!

With issue 2 only! Gorgeous dog lead for your handbag!



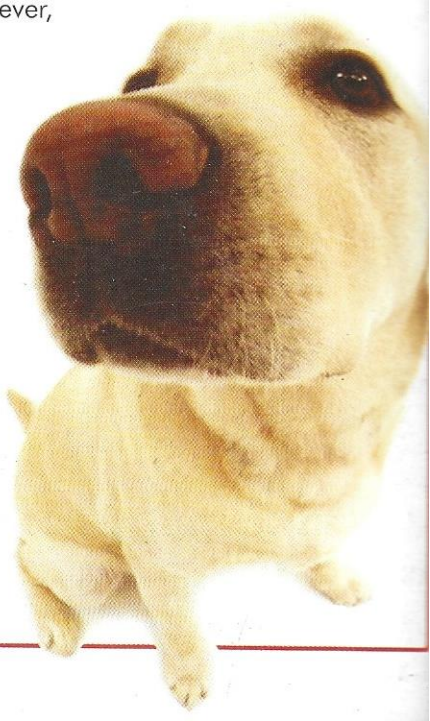
Plus

the fluffiest, cutest collectable plush Mini Schnauzer with a customised collar and star shaped tag



Coming in issue 3

- All about the lovable Labrador Retriever, the ultimate family pet
- Star dog features a Labrador who needed no training at all to become a film star
- The story of a Labrador that gave new life to a wounded sailor

Plus

the cuddly black Labrador for your collection with collar and special bone tag